

A QUIZ FOR DRIVERS ABOUT EMERGENCY VEHICLES



CITY OF MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT



IN CONJUNCTION WITH

MILWAUKEE SAFETY COMMISSION

MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SAFETY COUNCIL

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- Q:** *How can drivers with windows closed and radios booming become aware of an approaching vehicle?*
- A:** *Drivers with closed windows and noisy radios can't **hear** sirens, or warning horns, or much of anything else. . . That's why, in the winter time especially, motorists **and** their passengers should be doubly on the alert for flashing red lights.*
- Q:** *What's just about as dangerous as when a motorist stops at an accident scene out of plain curiosity, holding up traffic flow as a result?*
- A:** *Speeding past an accident scene puts into excessive danger all those involved in the emergency. . . That's why drivers ought to slow (not stop) and then keep a steady speed past stopped emergency vehicles.*
- Q:** *I've always been told to stop when I see or hear an emergency vehicle nearby; is that true?*
- A:** *It's only half true that motorists should stop as soon as they see or hear a nearby emergency vehicle. . . Sure, motorists should stop, but **after** moving to the right, out of the way.*
- Q:** *Do I have to pull to the right and get out of the way of ALL emergency vehicles?*
- A:** *When lights are flashing **and** sirens are sounding on any emergency vehicle, pull to the right and get out of the way. . . And that's true of private ambulances as well as fire equipment or law enforcement cars and cycles.*
- Q:** *Is there a law against wearing stereo headphones while driving?*
- A:** *The law forbids inattentive driving. . . Wearing stereo headphones while driving not only diverts a motorist's attention, but makes it all but impossible for him or her to hear a siren.*
- Q:** *What's just about as dangerous as trying to outrun an emergency vehicle?*
- A:** ***Tailgating** an emergency vehicle on call is dangerous and illegal. . . even if the vehicle is an ambulance transporting someone you are accompanying to a hospital.*
- Q:** *The only time I need to be concerned with emergency vehicles is when one is on my street, right?*
- A:** *Watch for emergency vehicles approaching intersections that you are approaching. . . They have the right of way, so don't move in front of them!*

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**IF YOU'RE AN INFORMED DRIVER,
YOU PROBABLY KNOW THE
ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION:**

**EXACTLY WHAT DOES A SIREN AND
FLASHING RED LIGHT MEAN?**

**OF COURSE, IT MEANS —IF
YOU'RE A DRIVER — PULL TO
THE RIGHT, LET OTHER DRIVERS
NEAR YOU PULL TO THE RIGHT,
AND GET OUT OF THE WAY.**

**BUT HOW ABOUT THE
FOLLOWING QUESTIONS, SOME
OF THEM KIND OF STICKY?
CAN YOU ANSWER THEM ALL
CORRECTLY?**

Q: *When I'm a pedestrian, don't I always have the right of way over an emergency vehicle?*

A: *Pedestrians should stay out of the street when they see a flashing red light and hear a siren nearby. . . Not only does the emergency vehicle have the right of way: pedestrians are even more vulnerable to fast moving vehicles than cars or trucks.*

Q: *What do I do if I see an emergency vehicle on the two-way street I'm on and there's a line of cars on my right?*

A: *Use your own horn to warn drivers on your right that you — and they — should move to the right. . . Never stop in the only available lane that an emergency vehicle can move through.*

Q: *Will I get arrested for driving my car through a red stop signal to get out of the way of an emergency vehicle?*

A: *The law permits a driver to go through a red stop signal to clear the way for an emergency vehicle. . . But be careful of vehicles which might be coming through the intersection from left or right; their drivers may not be as alert as you are.*

Q: *Am I supposed to pull to the right and stop for an emergency vehicle approaching from in front if I'm on a divided highway?*

A: *Rarely, do emergency vehicles cross the divider of a divided highway to travel in the wrong direction. . . So sensible motorists on divided highways will slow down when emergency vehicles are on the other side of the divide, and be very, very alert for turns at intersections by approaching vehicles.*

Q: *What's just about as bad as a driver interfering with a fire truck pulling out of a fire station?*

A: *Interfering with a fire truck backing into a station. Most motorists with good judgment are prepared for possible exits from fire stations by emergency vehicles. . . But sometimes that's not the case when fire equipment is trying to maneuver back into a station — when only flashing lights may be used to warn motorists of possible hazards.*